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II.—HISTOLOGY OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

Ueber den Ursprung und den centralen Verlauf des Nervus Accessorius Willisii. Von Otto Dees, München. Allg. Ztschr. f. Psych., XLIII, 4.

The author studied the origin and central course of the accessory nerve in the normal human cord and in the cords of rabbits in which the nerve had been removed by v. Gudden's method. At the level of the olivary body the accessory fibres cease. Below this they first arise, in the oblongata, from cells in the middle of the anterior horn (superior nucleus). This group of cells becomes more lateral, and between the second and fourth cervical nerves lies on the lateral edge of the anterior horn (the median nucleus), while below this it occupies the base of the lateral horn (inferior nucleus). Certain fibres emerge at the level at which they arise, others run towards the head, then turn at right angles and come to the periphery.

Sulla degenerazioni discendenti consecutive a lesioni sperimentali in diversa zone della corteccia cerebrale. Dei Dot. V. Marchi e G. Algeri. Revista speriment. di freniatria e di medicina leg., 1887, XII, p. 208.

The authors experimented on dogs and monkeys, from which they removed parts of the cortex, and then, having allowed the animals to live months or years, searched the oblongata and cord for degenerations. (1) On three dogs a piece of cortex 1.5 cm. on a side was cut away from the motor region (D. H. C. of Munk's figures). (2) On three more dogs a piece of the same size in the intermediate region (F. of Munk) was removed, and in (3) a final three a portion of the occipital region (A. of Munk). (4) Finally a monkey had the region A on both sides removed, and square piece in the upper third of the central convolutions on both sides. In all series there were motor disturbances—most marked in the first and least so in the last. Sensory disturbances in every case also. These were least marked in the first and most so in the last. The disturbances did not in either case entirely disappear during the time that the animals were allowed to live.

The degenerations found were distributed among motor and sensory tracts in the cord in a way roughly indicated by the reactions of the animals. In 1, degenerations were found in the crossed and uncrossed pyramidal tracts and some fibres in the columns of Burdach. In 2, partial degeneration of the crossed pyramidal tracts, extensive degeneration in both columns of Burdach, and scattered atrophic fibres throughout the entire section of the cord. In 3, the degenerations were as follows: Complete atrophy of the crossed column of Burdach, while the crossed column of Gall and the entire uncrossed posterior column showed only a few degenerated fibres. In 4, the monkey, which was kept alive two years, the entire extent of both post columns was degenerated, and there were scattered atrophic fibres through all the other parts. It is concluded from these results that sensory and motor fields to a certain extent coincide in the cortex, and that a complete crossing of sensory or motor fibres is not to be assumed.